

Remarks

Claims 1-23 and 25 are pending in this application and stand rejected. Claim 24 has been cancelled while Claims 1, 2, 10, 16, 21, and 25 have been amended.

CLAIMS REJECTIONS – 35 USC §102

Claims 1-6, 8-21, and 23-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being unpatentable over USPN 6,671,756 issued to Thomas.

Thomas discloses KVM switch that can accommodate multiple users and multiple computers. Thomas, Abstract. Mentioned in the Background section, each of the computers is connected to the KVM switch using one or more physical cables. A local user's mouse, display, and keyboard are connected to the KVM switch using physical cables. Using an extender, a remote user connects to the KVM switch preferably using CAT 5 cable. Alternatively, the remote user could connect to the KVM switch via a fibre optic, integral waveguide, or wireless connection. Thomas, col. 2, lines 1-13. Thomas makes no further mention (or even a hint) of wireless communication or components required to implement such a connection.

As amended, Claim 1 is directed to a switching device that includes the following combination of elements:

1. a transmitter and a receiver operable to provide wireless communication between the switching device and a selected one of a plurality of available computing devices and between the switching device and a peripheral device;
2. a computer readable medium having instructions for:
 - a. maintaining a list of the available computing devices;
 - b. receiving a user communication selecting from among the list of available computing devices; and
 - c. utilizing the transmitter and the receiver to establish a wireless link between the peripheral device and the switching device and between the switching device and a computing device selected from the list of available computing devices;

3. a processor operable to execute the instructions.

Citing the background section noted above, the Examiner asserts that Thomas teaches a wireless transmitter and a wireless receiver. As pointed out above, the background section merely states that, as an alternative, a remote user can link to a KVM switch using an extender and a wireless connection. Citing Thomas, col. 4, line 52 through col. 5, line 20, the Examiner asserts that Thomas teaches computer readable instructions for utilizing the transmitter and receiver to establish a wireless link between a peripheral device and a selected computing device. That section describes a KVM switch providing a link between peripheral devices and a computing device. The section specifically states that the computing device is connected via a physical cable (14) to the KVM switch at a physical port (29A). Thomas, col. 5, lines 10-20. The section mentions nothing of computer instructions for establishing a wireless link of any sort.

The sections cited by the Examiner mention nothing of wireless connections both between the KVM switch and the user and between the KVM switch and the computing device. Thomas plainly requires that the KVM switch be physically connected to the computing devices via physical ports provided on the switch. Consequently, Thomas fails to teach a switching device that includes the combination of limitations required by Claim 1. As such, Claim 1 is felt to distinguish over Thomas. Claims 2-9 are also felt to distinguish over Thomas based on their dependency from Claim 1.

As amended Claim 10 is directed to a computing system that includes the following combination of elements:

1. multiple computing devices, each of which being configured for wireless communication;
2. one or more peripheral devices configured to wirelessly receive and/or transmit data; and
3. a switching device configured to:
 - a. maintain a list of available computing devices from among the multiple computing devices;
 - b. receive a user communication selecting from among the list of

- available computing devices; and
- c. establish a wireless link between the peripheral device and the switching device and between the switching device and a computing device selected from the list of available computing devices enabling wireless user interaction.

As discussed above, the KVM switch disclosed by Thomas cannot establish a wireless link between both the peripheral device and the switching device and between the switching device and a computing device selected from the list of available computing devices. Consequently, Claim 10 is felt to distinguish over Thomas as Thomas does not disclose or suggest the required combination of elements. Claims 11-15 are also felt to distinguish over Thomas based at least on their dependency from Claim 10.

As amended, Claim 16 is directed to a computing system comprising the includes the following combination of elements:

1. multiple computing devices, each of which being configured for wireless communication;
2. one or more peripheral devices configured to wirelessly receive and/or transmit data and linkable with the computing devices for data exchange; and
3. a switching device configured to
 - a. wirelessly receive and transmit data from and to the peripherals and the computing devices
 - b. maintain a list of available computing devices from among the multiple computing devices;
 - c. receive a user communication selecting from among the list of available computing devices; and
 - d. establish a wireless link between the one or more peripheral devices and the switching device and between the switching device and a computing device selected from the list of available computing devices enabling user interaction with the computing devices.

Again, the KVM switch disclosed by Thomas cannot establish a wireless link between both the peripheral device and the switching device and between the switching device and a computing device selected from the list of available computing devices. Consequently, Claim 16 is felt to distinguish over Thomas as Thomas does not disclose or suggest the required combination of elements. Claims 17-20 are also felt to distinguish over Thomas based at least on their dependency from Claim 16.

As amended, Claim 21 is directed to a method of controlling multiple computing devices utilizing a switching device. The claimed method includes the following:

1. establishing a first wireless link with a peripheral device;
2. maintaining a list of available computing devices;
3. receiving data from a user, the data being associated with a user selection of an available computing device from the list;
4. using the received data to select a computing device;
5. establishing a second wireless link with the selected computing device;
- and
6. permitting the user to interact with the selected computing device via said first and second wireless links.

Because Thomas requires that its KVM switch be physically coupled to the computing devices, Thomas fails to teach a method in which a first wireless link is established with a peripheral device and a second wireless link is established with a selected computing device so that a user is permitted to interact with the selected computing device via said first and second wireless links.

Consequently, Claim 21 is felt to distinguish over Thomas as Thomas does not disclose or suggest the required combination of elements. Claims 22-23 are also felt to distinguish over Thomas based at least on their dependency from Claim 21.

As amended Claim 25 is directed to one or more readable media having instructions thereon which, when executed by a switching device, cause the

switching device to perform the method steps of Claim 21. For the same reasons Claim 21 is patentable, so is Claim 25.


CLAIMS REJECTIONS – 35 USC §103

The Examiner rejected Claims 7 and 22 under §103 citing Thomas in view of USPN 6,664,949 issued to Amro. Claim 7 depends from Claim 1 and Claim 22 depends from Claim 21. For the same reasons Claim 1 and 22 distinguish over Thomas, Claims 7 and 22 distinguish over Thomas and Amro.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-23 and 25 define allowable subject matter. The Examiner is requested to indicate the allowability of all claims in the application and to pass the application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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